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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CA-00	CCO-00
	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-00	USNW-00	EAP-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	E-00	UTED-00	FDRE-01	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	VCE-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-00	OIG-00
	OMB-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	MCC-00	GIWI-00	IRM-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00	FMP-00	EPAE-00	SCRS-00	PRM-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1237
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS NDJAMENA 000491

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/C, AF/EPS, PRM AND
USAID FOR RMT, DCHA/OFDA AND DCHA/FFP
DAKAR AND NAIROBI FOR USAID/RFFPO
ROME FOR FODAG
GENEVA FOR RMA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREF](#) [CD](#) [SU](#)

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS TO MITIGATE FOOD INSECURITY
RESULTING FROM DUAL IMPACT OF SUDAN REFUGEES AND DROUGHT
IN EASTERN CHAD

REF: A) NDJAMENA 0020, B) 04 STATE 207288,
C) 04 NDJAMENA 0957

[1](#)1. This is an action cable. Please see para 8.

[1](#)2. Summary. The presence in eastern Chad of more than 200,000 Sudanese refugees from the Darfur crisis has negatively affected the livelihoods and food security of the host population. In addition there has been meager, untimely rainfall during the past two growing seasons and locust attacks on pastureland in 2004. Experts warn that these combined factors could develop into famine conditions for eastern Chad in the coming months. UN agencies, USG and other donors have begun to respond but there remain gaps in the effort. DART member on assignment in eastern Chad recommends continued USG support of the UN agency efforts in favor of local populations as well as additional mitigation activities for food security and livelihoods by USAID/DCHA/OFDA and where appropriate these should be in collaboration with DOS/BPRM efforts. End summary.

[1](#)3. Background. The influx of refugees from the Darfur crisis has significantly and negatively affected the livelihoods and food security of the host population in eastern Chad. Two disaster declaration cables in the past 20 months have highlighted the deleterious impact that 200,000 Sudanese refugees have had on the fragile environment of this part of Chad (Reftel A and C). There is growing food insecurity among the Chadian host population as a result of sharing scarce resources of water, pasture, firewood and arable land with a refugee population whose sizeable numbers and accompanying livestock challenge the supporting capacity of the area's environment. The USAID famine early warning system (FEWSNET) recently published an alert of probable famine conditions developing in eastern Chad with drought exacerbating the severe pressure that the refugee presence has on the natural resource base. Rural Chadians in the area may soon exhaust usual coping mechanisms such as livestock sales. Particularly at risk are Wadi Fira (surrounding Biltine, Iriba and Guereda) in eastern Chad and Kanem in the west. The situation also has security implications as there are some tensions between refugee and local populations over the use of scarce resources in areas around refugee camps. Nutritional surveys conducted in December 2004 among local Chadian population in the areas around Treguine and Oure Cassoni camps indicated global acute malnutrition rates of 14.2% and 21.4% respectively.

[1](#)4. Food for Peace Officer (FFPO) and member of Darfur disaster response team (DART), Suzanne Poland, has completed a six-week TDY in eastern Chad during which she examined two aspects of the situation: the food aid response for the vulnerable populations as well as possible interventions to mitigate the negative effects the situation has on food security and local livelihoods. Some recommendations are presented in the

following paragraphs and action requested of OFDA in paragraph 8 below.

15. Food aid response summary

1A. Provisions in new EMOP.

As noted in earlier cable (Ref A) the UN system has become increasingly attuned to the need for assisting host country populations and has developed and included 63 project summaries which have been incorporated into its 2005 consolidated appeal to the donor community. In addition, the World Food Program conducted November 17-26, 2004 a rapid food needs assessment of host populations in the east, resulting in a series of recommendations to include targeted free distribution to the most vulnerable groups, school feeding, a program to assist with seed distribution, and a set of food for work activities all focusing on the local population. There are an estimated 722,247 Chadians living in the six departments where Sudanese refugees have been relocated:

Department	Chad	region	Sudanese camps
			pop.
Ennedi est	28,247	B.E.T.	Oure Cassoni
Kobe	44,681	Wadi Fira	Iridimi/Touloum/ Am nabak
Dar Tama	73,625	Wadi Fira	Kounoungo/Mile
Ouaddai	233,931	Ouaddai	
Assongha	160,007	Ouaddai	Farchana/Bredjing Treguine
Sila	181,756	Ouaddai	Goz Amer/Djabal
Total	722,247		

The proposed free distribution recommended by WFP for the local population in these departments will target 117,200 persons. In addition, an estimated 32,000 Chadian children will be fed in the school feeding program. The FFW planning document included in the rapid food needs assessment projects 3,600 participating households (approx. 18,000 persons) in food for work programs. In conjunction with a proposed FAO seeds distribution, WFP will provide food rations to 23,440 households during the planting season to assure seeds are planted and not eaten. WFP anticipates collaboration on seed protection and FFW activities with NGOs operating in the area, including ACTED, CARE, SECADEV, InterSOS, GTZ, OXFAM, Premiere Urgence, Africare and possibly IRD.

1B. Food aid activities already on-going for local population.

The next three months (March to May 2005) are critical for the local population and for efforts to assist them in avoiding severe food insecurity and the specter of famine. Food aid response is underway as of March. Blanket supplemental feeding continues in villages surrounding camps with plans to expand to villages more distant from camps during April. School feeding program continues through May and some food for work activities began in late March 2005 with more slated for startup in April. Seed protection food package should be distributed to 23,440 families along with seeds from mid-May to mid-June 2005. Although the new EMOP begins June 2005, it has already been approved and WFP will use authority to take advance on EMOP for local purchases of food if necessary to cover the local population programs until June 2005.

The re-registration process undertaken in all the refugee camps during February and March identified a number of Chadians from surrounding areas who had registered in camp in order to benefit from the food aid. The re-registration process includes new ration cards and photo identification cards. Although the Chadians in the camps will not receive either a new card or a photo ID, WFP and UNHCR have agreed that these families may keep their old ration cards and these will still be valid to access the food aid through September 2005. However in Goz Beida, Djabal camp, many Chadians in the camp were required to give up their ration cards during the re-registration process. WFP is working out how to make sure that vulnerable families in surrounding villages who had ration cards can still receive food through the camp distributions until September 2005.

1C. Pre-positioning of food aid.

Between March and June 2005, WFP plans to pre-position a three-month supply of commodities sufficient to feed

both refugees and vulnerable host population in eastern Chad. Eastern Chad will also be a transit zone for significant tonnage of commodities arriving through the Libyan corridor destined for pre-positioning in the Darfur region of Sudan. WFP has steadily improved the delivery system of commodities to eastern Chad. Although the slow delivery of commodities during 2004 has resulted in an average distribution of less than optimum kilocalorie level during the past months, the March 2005 distribution for refugees included a complete 30-day ration of 2100 kcal. WFP plans to maintain this speedier pace of regular weekly delivery of commodities via the Douala corridor and Libyan corridor and through eastern Chad from March until arrival of the rains make

roads impassable for heavy trucks. Thus the outlook seems favorable for WFP to pre-position sufficient food commodities to cover both refugee and vulnerable local populations in eastern Chad before the rains begin. The prospect for successfully pre-positioning the majority of the required commodities for internally displaced persons in Darfur by road through Chad is less promising. Once the rains begin WFP special operation plans to airlift from Al Khoufra whatever commodities could not be moved by road.

1D. Oversight of food aid program in eastern Chad.

The Embassy prefers and recommends that one person be designated to oversee the food aid in eastern Chad and that the same person make the oversight temporary duty visits. It is less effective to send a different person each trip because each new person that is sent must be briefed and get up to speed before they can effectively accomplish the task. The same person returning on a regular basis could effectively build on knowledge from previous visits.

16. Recommended activities to mitigate effect of refugee influx and drought on food security and livelihoods of Chadian population

1A. Seeds and tools distribution.

FAO has not yet received financing for a proposed seeds and tools distribution for the 2005/2006 growing season even though WFP has included food rations to protect the proposed seeds in the new EMOP. DART member Poland recommends that OFDA consider funding a program providing seeds only (no tools) to 23,440 agropastoral families in the affected areas for rainfed millet and sorghum and vegetable seed for 4,000 families for off-season production in the amount of approximately \$300,000. Consensus of Ministry of Agriculture officials and local administration and farmers is that tools are not needed.

FAO does not have a representative based in the eastern Chad affected area so to more efficiently execute the program it is recommended that the logistics of moving and distributing the seeds be done through WFP in conjunction with the seed protection food rations with FAO providing technical assistance for the purchase of the seeds. If available, some improved seeds of short season millet variety should be included in the package especially for Wadi-Fira area.

The FAO and WFP must assure that quality seeds are purchased and that they are distributed along with the seed protection ration in a transparent manner to vulnerable households with the means to use them and the seeds must be available to households by mid-May in the south through mid-June in the north.

If not already under consideration, recommend that DOS/BPRM consider funding an additional quantity of seeds and tools to cover refugee families in camps who may have access to land mainly in the Goz Beida area. InterSOS worked with 5,000 refugee families last year in a seed distribution program and this would be a manageable number for the current season. Tools should be included because the refugees are less likely to have tools with them. The same mechanism through FAO and WFP could be used for procurement and distribution of seeds for refugees as for local populations however funding through UNHCR is an option also. ECHO is funding a small program with seeds for 500 refugee families around Treguine camp with Premiere Urgence.

1B. Food security interventions

The food aid measures and seeds distribution are important for the immediate response but restoration of some water, soil and tree resources and prevention of further environmental degradation is imperative to prevent widespread food insecurity in coming years and

to provide productive capacity and asset building. Recommend that OFDA consider proposals from NGOs Africare, and International Relief and Development to

conduct developmental relief activities that combine water and soil interventions, natural resource conservation and stewardship with food security and livelihood activities.

Abeche to Adre area

Africare's proposed program would directly affect 40,000 households and focus on wells, livestock watering ponds, soil-water-harvesting systems in the Abeche to Adre band surrounding the three camps of Farchana, Treguine and Breidjine and the area for the new camp of Gaga. Africare has a Title II DAP program in this area funded by USAID/FFP through 2008. The DAP program with check dams has been very successful. Villagers participating in the program have become food secure with water for crop production, livestock and off-season income-generating vegetable production in as short a time as one year. The check dams slow the flow of the water through the wadis during the rainy season enough so that the water can infiltrate the soil, recharge the aquifers and also deposit soil that has been eroded from areas upstream. Recommend that OFDA provide funds for Africare to expand this program in order to reach more villages in the coming year. Currently the DAP has 3,000 hectares rehabilitated in the check dam system, affecting the livelihoods of more than 30,000 families.

SECADEV (CRS) and two local NGOs request support from OFDA for materials to complement the food for work activities they will carry out with local populations in the Farchana and Adre areas. These are small requests and the three together should not exceed \$25,000. Recommend one umbrella grant with an international NGO such as CRS or Africare to fund all three of the local NGOs.

Iriba and Guerreda area (Wadi-Fira)

Wadi-Fira province is the most at risk of developing famine conditions in the coming months. Last year Iriba recorded only 84 mm of rainfall compared to normal average of 350 mm. International Relief and Development is an NGO with mostly Asian and eastern European experience looking to startup activities in Chad. IRD has proposed to establish in the Iriba-Guerreda area with water, livestock, NRM activities and a mobile health unit covering approximately 70,000 individuals or about 14,000 households.

Recommend that IRD begin smaller and cover only Iriba area villages and target 25,000 to 30,000 people or about 6,000 households. Some of the villages in the Guerreda area were previously covered by local NGO SECADEV and they may resume food for work and other food security activities in the coming year. IRD would need to become functional very quickly in order to have an impact in this current food security emergency situation.

Bahai area

The Ambassador's disaster allowance of \$50,000 was granted to ACTED to complement food for work activities in Bahai. Recommend increasing the grant level to ACTED so that the food for work activities around Bahai and Oure Cassoni camp can be effectively carried out - approximately \$100,000 to \$150,000 additional funding required to provide vehicle and technical supervision necessary in the harsh environment of Bahai. ACTED currently understaffed and will not have capacity to implement food security activities if vacant positions of country director and logistics officer are not filled very soon. Note that ACTED logistics officer arrived in mid-march in Bahai. ACTED must coordinate water activities and any agricultural activities around Lake Carriari with International Rescue Committee, the lead for wat/san sector in the Oure Cassoni camp near Bahai. There are some concerns about ACTED proposed livestock watering activities near the water treatment plant for the refugee camp.

Kanem province

Kanem province in western Chad is also cited by FEWSNET as a probable area where famine conditions could develop. Action Contre la Faim (ACF) had a mother and child nutrition program in Kanem for 20 years but closed the program in 2003 because there was no measurable impact on the malnutrition situation after 20 years. A local NGO continued the supplemental feeding program until the arrival of the Sudanese refugees. WFP needed

to mobilize food stocks in country to feed the influx of refugees and suspended its development program in the interim. The Kanem supplemental feeding program should start up again as soon as the country program resumes and if the local NGO still has the capacity to implement. A food aid response is the only recommended action at this point. ACF is not interested in reentering Kanem and no other international NGOs are present.

17. Peace Corps Volunteer secondary projects.

There are possibilities for collaboration with US Peace Corps in some areas where food for work and developmental relief activities would be funded. Some Peace Corps education volunteers might be interested in pursuing secondary projects involving implementation of food for work and developmental relief activities with NGOs during the school break period May through October. This could assist some NGOs having problems with timely recruitment of personnel. In cases where an NGO can work out a satisfactory scope of work with PC/Chad and in areas where security situation is acceptable for volunteer placement, DCHA/OFDA may need to consider modest additions to NGO funding requests in order to provide accommodations and transport for participating volunteer(s) during a 2 to 3 month period.

18. Actions requested for OFDA Darfur RMT

In order for there to be sufficient time for some of the water storage and availability interventions such as well cleaning, well construction, water storage and livestock watering to be implemented in time to profit from the rains these recommendations should be reviewed, decisions made and implemented immediately. If at all possible grant instruments should be in place by mid to late April. The interventions should be approved for at least 12-month period so that there are even more beneficial results before the arrival of the subsequent rainy season in June/July 2006.

Suggest that regional OFDA and FFP Officers could include oversight of these recommended food security activities in their regular scheduling of visits in the region. OFDA should clarify if eastern Chad remains under jurisdiction of REDSO for these interventions related to pressure of Darfur refugee presence and drought.

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